

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-24 (Canceled)

25. (New) A method for abrading human or animal tissue comprising contacting the tissue with an abrasive material which comprises substantially non-round bioinert glass or ceramic particles.

26. (New) A method for abrading human or animal tissue comprising contacting the tissue with an abrasive material which comprises bioinert glass particles which comprise from about 50% to about 85% by weight silicon dioxide (SiO_2), from about 0% to about 25% by weight boron oxide (B_2O_3), from about 0% to about 20% by weight aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3), and up to about 15% by weight sodium oxide (Na_2O).

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the abrasive material further comprises compounds selected from the group consisting of potassium oxide (K_2O), calcium oxide (CaO), magnesium oxide (MgO), barium oxide (BaO), titanium oxide (TiO), strontium oxide (SrO), zirconium oxide (ZrO_2) and fluorine (F) in amounts up to about 15% by weight, individually or in combination, based on the total weight of the abrasive material.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the abrasive material further comprises up to about 15% by weight potassium oxide (K_2O).

29. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the abrasive material further comprises color-imparting elements selected from the group consisting of Ag, Au, V, Cr, Co, Cu, Er, Nd,

Fe, Mn, Ni, Sm, Eu, U and Se in amounts less than about 5% by weight, individually or in combination, based on the total weight of the abrasive material.

30. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the bioinert glass or ceramic particles further comprise a coating.

31. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the bioinert glass particles further comprise a coating.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the coating comprises materials selected from the group consisting of anti-microbial agents, lotions, vitamins and color-imparting substances.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the coating comprises an anti-microbial agent.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the anti-microbial agent possesses anti-bacterial properties and is present in an amount sufficient to eliminate or reduce the presence of bacteria.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the coating is applied by a silanization process.

36. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the coating is applied by a spray-coating process.

37. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the abrasive material further comprises ions selected from the group consisting of Ag, Zn, or Cu and wherein said abrasive material possesses anti-microbial properties.

38. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the abrasive material further comprises Ag ions.

39. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the abrasive material further comprises AgNO_3 .

40. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the abrasive material is produced by a sol-gel process.

41. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the abrasive material is produced by a sol-gel process.

42. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the abrasive effect is superior to that provided by aluminum oxide abrasives.

43. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the abrasive effect is superior to that provided by aluminum oxide abrasives.

44. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the abrasive effect is superior to that provided by substantially round glass beads.

45. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the abrasive effect is superior to that provided by substantially round glass beads.